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CITY AGENCY TO PROBE RATNER PLAN

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

The Independent Budget Office will conduct an economic study of Bruce Ratner's \$2.5 billion Atlantic Yards development, the city-funded fiscal watchdog agency announced this week.

Responding to requests from elected officials and opponents of the project, which Ratner estimates will cost \$2.5 billion to complete, the agency agreed to undertake the study, but said it must receive detailed financial information from Ratner's company, Forest City Ratner, before it can go ahead.

Fiscal watchdog must rely on developer's cooperation

"We have decided that we will take a look at it, but we don't know what that means as far as scope and timing," said Doug Turetsky, a spokesman for the IBO.

The developer is expected to seek both city and state subsidies but has not yet disclosed the scope of his request. While Mayor Michael Bloomberg has pledged support for the project, it is still unclear how the city intends to finance its contribution.

"Those are two very large open questions at the heart of what we would typically look at," said Turetsky.

Ratner is proposing to construct a 21-acre, arena, office tower and residential village starting at the intersection of Atlantic and Flatbush avenues and stretching six blocks into Prospect Heights.

The plan includes 17 buildings

reaching as high as 620 feet. An initial presentation of Ratner's project included designs by renowned architect Frank Gehry.

Opponents of the massive project have been urging the IBO to undertake a study ever since Ratner released an economic analysis he commissioned.

"It is a victory," said Prospect Heights Councilwoman Letitia See **PROBE** on page 7

Bruce quietly buying up Prospect Heights



Will Lashley and Leigh Anderson pose in front of 624 Pacific St., a rental building recently bought by Bruce Ratner. Lashley and Anderson, rent stabilized tenants, have lived in the building for several years.

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

Over the past several months, developer Bruce Ratner has been quietly plowing his way through Prospect Heights, purchasing everything property owners are willing to sell.

So far he has bought up a crumbling furniture warehouse, a luxury condominium building and, just recently, he closed on a four-story brick building where he plans to build the tallest tower in Brooklyn.

The six-block stretch between Flatbush and Vanderbilt avenues, home to upwards of 400 people, has never been so popular.

That's because Ratner, principal of Forest City Ratner, is now looking to construct Atlantic Yards, a residential, retail and commercial development centered around a basketball arena to house his newly purchased New Jersey Nets on that site.

Just last month the developer purchased 624 Pacific St., a four-story brick building off Flatbush Avenue, which is home to four rent-stabilized apartments.

Each tenant living there received letters in the mail dated July 14 informing them that the building had been sold to an entity known as "Arena Nominee Sub F, LLC," and that rent checks should be sent to Forest City Ratner's main office at Metrotech.

The tenants, mostly artists and writ-

ers, are opposed to the project and have placed anti-arena banners reading "No land grab!" and "Hell no we won't go" along the outside of the building.

Will Lashley, a film and video editor who has lived in the building for nine years, said he was concerned about what is going to happen.

"We have not been offered anything," said Lashley, who has consulted with an attorney about what will happen to them if Ratner wants to tear down the building and put up another in its place.

"I don't want to lose this apartment, what am I going to do. It's going to change my entire lifestyle. I might have to leave New York altogether," said Lashley who pays "well under \$1,000" for his one bedroom apartment.

The previous owner of 624 Pacific St., K.C. Shemtov, who described his profession as "buy low, sell high," is also negotiating to sell his own offices just a few doors down at 640 Pacific St.

Shemtov declined to comment on the selling price for either building.

In order to build the 8-million-square-foot Atlantic Yards project, including a 19,000-seat arena and 17 towers, Ratner will either have to buy out or ask the state to use eminent domain to condemn over 11 acres of private property.

The loudest objection to the plan has been over the issue of eminent domain—the power of the state to condemn private land for public use—and in-or-

See **LAND** on page 3

Horsin' around

Gabriella Grafakos, 10, is nuzzled by a police horse at the 78th Precinct Youth Summer Camp Tuesday, on Bergen Street and Sixth Avenue in Prospect Heights.

New lease on life Working piers to stick around

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

After months of tense negotiations, American Stevedoring, which operates the last shipping container port in Brooklyn, struck a deal with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey this week securing its space on the Red Hook piers until 2007.

The company has been operating

without a lease since May and has been battling with the Port Authority over terms of a renewal ever since.

"This is a huge victory for job preservation and he economic vitality of Brooklyn," said Matt Yates, director of operations for American Stevedoring.

The new lease allows the company to stay at piers 8, 9 and 10 until May 2007.

The company was forced to give up piers 11 and 12 to make way for a new passenger ship terminal the city is planning to build to attract cruise lines to Brooklyn.

Negotiations stalled over the past few months as American Stevedoring angled for a three-year lease and pushed to keep Pier 11.

Company officials said shipping contracts generally run two-and-a-

See **PIERS** on page 3

Check out Coney

By Lisa J. Curtis
GO Brooklyn Editor

Coney Island fans can appreciate the charms of the beach and boardwalk in a whole new way at an exhibit now on display in the Brooklyn Public Library's Grand Army Plaza branch.

"Coney Island: Boardwalk Idyll" is an exhibition of paintings by artist Lewis Bryden. The artist began his "Boardwalk Idyll" series in 1980, and has lived in Brooklyn for 14 years.

The paintings on display at the library range from a group of teens intently watching the progress of a pinball wizard to a young woman and child taking a break in a fast food shack. In "Kiosk" (pictured), Bryden paints a young, curly sunbather against the boardwalk's stark landscape and sharp-edged shadows in an arresting Edward Hopper-like style.

Curiously, amidst all of these amusements, Bryden's subjects remain unsmiling. A visitor to the exhibit, however, will certainly be happy to have made the trip.

"Coney Island: Boardwalk Idyll" is on display in the Central Library's Lobby Gallery through Aug. 21. The exhibition is free and open during regular library hours Tuesday through Saturday.

NBA approves Nets sale

Associated Press

The Board of Governors of the National Basketball Association unanimously approved the sale of the New Jersey Nets on Wednesday to an ownership group which plans to move the team to New York.

The league expects the sale to the group led by Brooklyn developer Bruce Ratner to close next week.

Ratner has not yet asked permission from the NBA board to move the team to Brooklyn. He and his group will pay an estimated \$300 million to buy the much-traveled team

— it has moved three times — from Community College to Madison Square Garden.

Ratner plans to build a 19,000-seat arena that will be part of an office, residential and shopping complex the developer estimates will cost \$2.5 billion to complete.

He hopes to complete the arena for the 2007-2008 season. The entire project is expected to take 10 years to complete.

"We're very thankful to Commissioner David Stern and the NBA's Board of Governors," said a statement by Ratner. "We are humbled by this vote and excited about the prospects of putting together a team that all Nets fans in the Metropolitan area can be proud of."

The borough has not had a major sports franchise since baseball's Dodgers left for Los Angeles in 1957.

Ratner has come under criticism in recent weeks for cost-saving player moves that seemingly have hurt the Nets' chances to be successful on the court next season.

All-Star power forward Kenyon Martin was shipped to Denver last month after the Nets realized that matching a proposed offer sheet by the Nuggets would force them to pay him \$23 million in salary and front-loaded bonuses before the start of the season.

— with *The Brooklyn Papers*

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August 14, 2004

12 year old mugged

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

Police arrested a 13-year-old boy this week after he was caught mugging a 12-year-old on President Street near Sixth Avenue.

The victim was walking by just after noon when the young thug stepped up and asked for the time.

But before he could answer, the victim was in a choke hold and the thief was riffling through his pockets.

He took a cell phone and fled westbound on President Street.

The incident occurred just after noon on Aug. 6.

Java-jacked

A speedily made off with a piping-hot pot of cash this week.

A coffee delivery truck driver pulled up alongside Smith Street near Pacific Street and dashed into a store at 4:30 pm on Aug. 6.

But when the driver returned 15 minutes later, somebody had made off with \$3,000 stashed behind the driver's seat.

The truck's door was unlocked, police said.

Wallet scooped

It might have been tasty, but it sure was an expensive scoop.

A woman stopped for some ice cream at a store on Livingston Street near Bond Street at 2:15 pm on Aug. 3.

But when she left with her cone, she left her wallet sitting on the counter, she told police.

When she returned five minutes later the wallet and all of her money was gone.

The victim told police she

BLOTTER

Theft arrest

A trio of cinema-loving bandits was busted this week by police caught them allegedly stealing over 75 DVDs from a video store on Flatbush Avenue near Eighth Avenue.

The 20-something suspects were placed under arrest at 9:15 pm on Aug. 3.

Motorcycle lifted

A man watched from the widow of his building as a pair of crooks loaded his green Kawasaki motorcycle into a van and rode off.

The victim, 34, was peering out from the third floor as he noticed the duo drive up to Concord and Bridge streets and lift the motorcycle into a service van and speed away.

The incident occurred at 9:15 pm on Aug. 4.

Carjacked

A man returning home from a Manhattan club was carjacked on the corner of Flatbush and Eighth avenues in the early morning hours on Aug. 8.

The 24-year-old driver from East Flatbush was stopped for a red light on Flatbush Avenue when a thug in a hooded sweatshirt walked up at 6 a.m.

"I have a gun," the thief said motioning towards his sweatshirt pocket. "Get out of the car or you know what's going to happen."

To threaten the motorist a bit more, he added, "I cops come after me, all of your info is in the car. I'm gonna come after you."

With that he hopped into the white Lexus and zipped off down Flatbush Avenue.

The victim waited until 2 pm to report the incident.

Evening burg

A woman returned home to find a burglar apartment this week to find the front door open

a trail of muddy footprints leading from the window to the door.

The victim, 32, left her apartment near Fourth Street at 5:30 pm on Aug. 1 and returned five hours later.

Someone in between the thief took off a screen and climbed in through the window located next to a fire escape.

The stolen goods included a diamond ring, pearl necklace, and an IBM laptop.

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Sexual assault in Ridge

By Jotham Sederstrom
The Brooklyn Papers

A gun-wielding thug sexually assaulted an employee in the back room of a furniture store near 86th Street after a failed attempt to rob her.

Police say the man walked into the Jennifer Convertibles store on Fourth Avenue and 85th Street at 1 pm on Aug. 9. Police say the business was empty except for the female employee, whose identity is being withheld.

When the woman told him there was no cash, he pointed the gun at her and led her to a back room, away from the window-paneled showroom,



The police sketch of man sought in Monday's sexual assault.

where she was sexually assaulted.

Police described the perpe-

trator as a 175-pound black male between the ages of 30 and 35 years old, who wore black jeans, a black t-shirt and a dark blue hat.

The woman was taken to Lutheran Medical Center for evaluation.

"Sometimes in this bucolic area we forget that we're still living in a big city," said Councilman Vincent Gentile, who appeared at the scene of the crime on Monday.

"Though overall crime is down, it doesn't mean that crime is non-existent. And we were reminded of that in a very tragic way."

"It's a police matter right now," added Gentile, "but with the train around the corner



Store where woman was sexually assaulted Monday.

who knows where this guy came from."

Police are offering up to \$2,000 for information leading to an arrest. Anyone with in-

formation can call Crimestoppers at (800) 577-TIPS, or the Brooklyn Special Victims Squad at (718) 230-4417. All calls will be confidential.

PIERS...

Continued from page 1

half year and, so a lease for less than three years would make it difficult to secure business.

The city says it needs Pier 11 to move traffic into the passenger terminal.

The city is also eyeing Pier 10 and has said it will want to extend cruise operations there when the new lease is up.

While American Stevedoring celebrated this week's agreement as a victory, many still wonder about the fate of the waterfront, especially with conversion of a maritime warehouse beginning near Pier 11 at 160 Inlay St. into residential condominiums.

Rep. Jerrold Nadler, whose district includes the Red Hook waterfront, worked to help broker a deal for the company.

While Nadler is committed to maintaining a working waterfront in Brooklyn, he is trying to ultimately move those operations to the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal in Sunset Park, which has better rail access.

"It is my hope that the renewal of the lease signals the start of a commitment by the Port Authority and the city to a long-term future for maritime operations in Brooklyn," Nadler said in written statement this week.

American Warehousing — a subsidiary of American Stevedoring — and the Port Authority are still battling over the future of Pier 7, which the company currently uses to store cocoa and coffee.

The company also secured a one-year lease for Pier 5, but that is expected to be turned over to the future Brooklyn Bridge Park, a 1.3 mile recreation and commercial development stretching along the waterfront from Jay Street to Atlantic Avenue.

Steve Coleman, a spokesman for the Port Authority, said the deal would not be final until the board approves it in September.

"It's good for Brooklyn to have that port there for as long as possible," said Evan Thies, a spokesman for Councilman David Yassky, chairman of the waterfront committee. "It's unfortunate that the city and state aren't willing to guarantee American Stevedoring a longer lease — that sort of commitment would help them to expand, create more jobs, and tax revenue for the city."

LAND...

Continued from page 1

der to quell those cries Ratner has taken to purchasing property throughout Prospect Heights.

Just last week, Ratner finally closed on a deal with residents at the posh Atlantic Art Building, a 32-unit luxury condominium at 636 Pacific St.

News of that deal made headlines a few months ago when word got out that, as part of the agreement, owners were banned from speaking out against the project and would have to designate two people to speak in favor of it.

One resident, Daniel Goldstein — a leader of Develop-

Don't Destory Brooklyn, a group opposed to the project — has refused to sell.

Ratner's other purchases include a mattress and furniture warehouse at 585 Dean St. that houses Frederick's Furniture.

Several other buildings have also sold in the past two months, but Ratner declined to confirm if he was the buyer.

The city's Department of Finance takes several months to process real estate transactions.

Tenants at 912 Pacific St., a four-story building at the eastern end of the project near Vanderbilt Avenue, learned that the

building had recently sold.

"I'm not too thrilled about it," said Maria Gonzalez, who has lived in 810 Pacific St. for 31 years and is afraid that her building is next. "There are lot of memories here."

"We are not discussing that at this time," said Joe DePasco, a spokesman for Ratner when asked this week about which properties the developer had purchased.

While some developers have been selling their land, others have refused.

Henry Weinstein, who owns close to one acre of property including a 20,000-square-foot vacant lot and a seven-floor storage facility on Carlton Avenue stretching between Pacific and Dean streets, said he has no intention of selling.

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HEALTH, MIND & BODY

High hopes for grads from NY Methodist

New York Methodist Hospital

Based on their speeches, the consensus among the faculty at New York Methodist Hospital's School of Medical Technology seemed to be that the six 2004 graduates, who received diplomas at a recent ceremony, will be leaders in their field.

"These graduates have already set themselves apart from other baccalaureate candidates," said Adrienne Paez, program director of NYMH's School of Medical Technology. "They have learned more medical terminology, more pathophysiology and more microbiology than any other college senior."

Two of the graduates have accepted positions at their alma mater, New York Methodist Hospital, and the other four graduates have secured positions in the field.

Special awards were given to several graduates for exceptional achievement. Tanisha Edwards-Mabry, of Queens, received the award for excellence in microbiology. The Blood Bank award and the biochemistry award went to Park Slope resident Anthony Watts. Stefania Gabriele, of Bensonhurst, received an award for excellence in immunology. Barbara Kukinska, of Midwood, received the hematology award and the award for highest academic achievement.

In addition to those graduates, Jennifer Figueroa-Valenzuela of Staten Island and Marvin Lall of Queens, received certificates that afternoon.

The students presented a special award for excellence in teaching and contribution to the School of Medical Technology to Anselmo Dash, laboratory technician in the hospital's blood bank.

"I've worked with a lot of classes, and

this one, by far, was the best," said Dash upon receiving the award.

Graduates can apply their education and experience in a variety of lab settings, such as hospital, private, public health, government, forensic and veterinary.

Graduates may also become teachers, pharmaceutical sales representatives, DNA analysts, bioterrorism specialists, research scientists or technical support specialists. Some may even move on to obtain degrees in business, science and medicine.

The New York Methodist Hospital School of Medical Technology is an accredited formal program that trains college students to work in the field of medical technology. The program consists of a one-year internship, which essentially replaces the students' senior year of college. The students study all fields of hospital laboratory science.

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Kerry supporters shout it from rooftops



Rooftop signs like this one are being placed on Brownstone Brooklyn buildings in the hope that those flying in to the Republican National Convention will get the message.

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

Earlier this month, three dozen or so Brooklyn residents packed into a training center on Fifth Avenue in Park Slope to learn about civil disobedience and how to defend themselves at demonstrations outside the Republican National Convention.

The tactics were simple: lay down if attacked, never touch a police officer and make sure your message is on target if a reporter shoves a microphone in your face.

The two-day training was just one of the many ways Brooklynites are gearing up for the first-ever Republican convention to be held in New York City, from Aug. 30 to Sept. 2.

While most of the 50,000 delegates, press and other out-of-towners expected to flock to the city for the convention are unlikely to even make it to the Brooklyn side of the East River, that hasn't stopped residents of the largely Democratic county from finding ways to voice their opinions about the Grand Old Party.

Boerum Hill resident Genevieve Christy hasn't been beefing up on her pepper spray etiquette, but she has found a different sort of self-defense — a paintbrush.

For the past month, the fi-

nancial consultant has been busy organizing a rooftop protest and has mobilized over 60 brownstone owners to tie up bright blue tarpaulins with anti-Bush and pro-John Kerry slogans.

Neighbors and friends are loaning their rooftops to allow Christy to attach one of the 16-by-20 foot tarps with messages including "Vote Kerry" and "Redefeat Bush."

"They are messages for the higher-ups," said Christy, 57, who hopes that everyone from delegates to passengers on Air-Force One will glimpse down at the message as they arrive for the convention.

After hearing about the project, other groups in Park Slope and Fort Greene decided to join in.

But those aren't the only Brooklyn-based protests.

Planned Parenthood is organizing a pro-choice march at Cadman Plaza Park at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 28, heading across the Brooklyn Bridge to City Hall.

Mothers Opposing Bush (MOB) plans to gather at Cadman Plaza Park at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 27, and plans to march across the bridge and back.

Despite the efforts of local Republicans to woo the conventioners to Brooklyn, there are no events planned for the borough.

A media party expected to bring 15,000 reporters to Ful-

ton Ferry Landing fell through and has now been moved to the Time Warner offices in Manhattan.

Bay Ridge Republican state Sen. Mary Golden's efforts to bring delegates to Coney Island for "baseball and hot dogs," has been less than successful.

"They didn't bite, they're

not doing much outside Manhattan," said Golden spokesman John Quaglione.

Instead, Golden is taking his pro-Bush message to Manhattan, where he plans to host a convention-watching party at Scopa Restaurant on Madison Avenue where guests are expected to watch the convention on television.

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BROOKLYN CYCLONES COVERAGE

Cyclones salute Negro League players

By Ed Shakespeare
for The Brooklyn Papers

The faces looked familiar, but the uniforms didn't, and some fans were confused by the sight of the Cyclones in Yankee-like pinstripes.

During the game on Aug. 7, really sharp-eyed fans could spot the word "Giants" on the sleeve of the Cyclones uniforms. But the words on the sleeve said "Royal Giants," not New York Giants. Where were the Cyclones?

They were right on the field, dressed in replica uniforms of the Brooklyn Royal Giants, a Negro League team organized in 1905 by the owner of the popular Brooklyn Royal Cafe.

On Negro League Tribute Night, the current Brooklyn professional team was dressed to represent the champions of 1909, 1910, 1914, and 1916.

Present that night were two former players from the Negro League, Jim Robinson and Armando Vazquez.

Jim Robinson (not related to Jackie) was asked about the personal effect of the Jackie's debut with the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947.

"I was only 17 years old at the time," said the younger Robinson. "I thought that there would at least be an opportunity, and the fact that he broke the colored barrier also meant, eventually, the demise of the Negro League."



Cyclones right fielder Ambiorix Concepcion slides head first past Staten Island Yankees second baseman Phil Coke during Wednesday night's game at KeySpan Park.

Jim Robinson actually broke into the Negro Leagues when they were fading in popularity because many of the Negro Leagues' stars were being signed to contracts with major league organizations. When Jim Robinson began his professional career in 1952, eventual major league Hall-of-Famers Hank Aaron and Ernie Banks were still playing in the Negro Leagues, but they were quickly snupped up by major league clubs.

The Cyclones had just returned to Brooklyn that morning from a 400-mile overnight bus trip from Jamestown, New York. What was travel like in the Negro Leagues?

"We traveled by bus, and lots of times buses would break down," recalled Robinson, an infielder for the Philadelphia Stars, Indianapolis Clowns, and Kansas City Monarchs.

"They were uncomfortable, the seats were hard and you couldn't really lean back too much in them, but that was life in the Negro League, and you accepted it because you loved what you were doing," said the North Carolina A&T State University graduate.

Vazquez, the other former Negro League player at KeySpan, was born in Cuba. Now 78 years old, he started his career in the Negro League in 1944 and played professionally until 1955. Among the many

teams with which the first baseman-outfielder played were the Indianapolis Clowns and the New York Cubans.

A number of players who eventually played for the Brooklyn Dodgers were well known to Vazquez.

He was a friend of Joe Black, who pitched in the Negro League for the Baltimore Elite Giants, and of Junior Gilliam.

"Junior was the baby for the Elite Giants before he played on the Dodgers," recalled Vazquez. The Dodgers' Hall of Fame catcher, Roy Campanella, was influential in Vazquez's career.

"Roy was a good buddy," remembered the former New York Cuban. "He got me to come to the United States to play."

Brooklyn Dodgers fans always recall the great catch in left field that Sandy Amoros made to help win the seventh game of the 1955 World Series.

"After the Dodger games, Sandy and I would hang around just like we would do in Cuba," remembered Vazquez of his former countryman.



Ups for grabs

During the game on Negro League Tribute Night, there was a silent auction of Brooklyn Royal Giants jerseys worn by the Cyclones in that night's game.

Opening bids, fixed at \$100, took place at a table on the concourse on the first base side of KeySpan Park.

Warner Fusselle, the Cyclones' radio announcer, was interested in obtaining a jersey, so he put down a few bids before the game, but he soon had to repair to the Cathed Seat for his broadcast duties.

The auction was due to end at the conclusion of the eighth inning.

In the top of the eighth, Mark "The Mayor of Section 14" Lazaro was checking on his own bid for a jersey when he noticed Fusselle had also been bidding. Although Mark the Mayor had deferred his own bidding to allow a competitor to stay in the lead for a jersey, Lazaro wanted to help Fusselle, who was being outbid while he was confined to his press box broadcasting seat.

So Lazaro and a writer stayed in cell phone communication. The writer was aware of the focus that the announcer maintains in the game, but the scribe kept Fusselle informed of the bidding by passing notes to the broadcaster.

Fusselle would quickly glance at the note and then nod his head and point emphatically at the note to affirm his interest in raising his bid. Then he went right back to broadcasting the game.

In the bottom of the eighth inning the Cyclones kept getting hit after hit, and each smash cost Fusselle money as the extended frame allowed for more raised bids.

The writer and the Mayor were afraid that the seemingly endless inning might cause Fusselle to either lose out on his bidding, or win the bidding but have no money left for food until Labor Day.

The inning mercifully ended, and Fusselle had won the bidding at a price that enabled him to avoid going on food stamps.

After the game, Fusselle took off his headset and expounded on the feat.

"It was the first time in my life that I ever simultaneously broadcast a game and participated in an auction," said the relaxed and smiling announcer.

Eating contest

We are excited to see the contestants in our ballpark display a different kind of athleticism," said Cyclones general manager Steve Cohen about the participants in the upcoming chicken wing eating contest before the game against the Aberdeen Ironbirds on Sunday, Aug. 15.

In the contest, "Gentleman" Joe Menchetti, Amie "Chowhand" Chapman, and Eddie "The Cyclone" Vidmar, all professional eaters, will compete against Cyclones fans to devour Applebee's Boneless Chicken Wings.

Will it be too much for the Cyclones' birds, Sandy and Pee Wee, to watch? Stay tuned.

Brooks drop 2 of 2 to the SI Yanks

By Ed Shakespeare
for The Brooklyn Papers

Jamestown 5 Brooklyn 4

August 6 at KeySpan Park

The Cyclones fell behind 5-0 after three innings against the Jamestown Jammers, and the Brooks later comeback attempt fell short as Brooklyn dropped to 26-18 on the season.

Joe Williams (4-2) started for the Clones and took the loss after he allowed five runs, three of them earned, over five innings.

Daniel Barone (1-3) took the win for Jamestown.

The Jammers (16-29) plated two unearned runs in the second inning and three earned runs in the third.

Tyler Davidson and Ambiorix Concepcion knocked RBI singles in the sixth inning to cut Jamestown's lead to 5-2.

In the seventh, Ryan Coates and Danilo Reynoso singled to place runners at the corners, and Corey Coles' ground ball resulted in an error allowing Coates to score. Dante Brinkley followed with a single to score Reynoso and narrow the lead to 5-4.

In the eighth inning, Concepcion was on second and attempted to steal third, and when the catcher's throw got by the third baseman, Concepcion came home. But batter's interference was called on Ryan Coates, and Concepcion had to return to second base. Left the score at 5-4 Jamestown, which is how the game finished.



New Jersey 13 Brooklyn 7

August 7 at KeySpan Park

The New Jersey Cardinals broke open a close game with eight runs in the sixth inning to hand the Cyclones their third straight defeat.

Evan MacLane (3-3) took the loss for Brooklyn (28-19) as he allowed eight runs, seven of them earned, on seven hits, in five innings.

New Jersey (24-22) led 5-0 when Tyler Davidson narrowed the deficit with a solo home run. The Brooks came back with three more runs in the fourth on an RBI single by Dante Brinkley, an RBI walk by Jim Burt and a sacrifice fly by Ryan Coates.

The Cardinals took control for eight runs in the fifth on seven hits. Mike Ferris proved to be the big wheel in the inning for New Jersey as he drove in two runs with a home run and two more runs with a single as the Cardinals batted around.

In the eighth, Brooklyn scored a run on a throwing error and two more tallies on a home by Matt Fisher, his first in professional baseball, but

those runs ended the scoring. Derek Roper (5-0) took the win in relief for New Jersey. The Brooklyn loss narrowed the Clones' lead in the McNamara Division to 1.5 games over Hudson Valley and 3.5 games over New Jersey.

New Jersey 13 Brooklyn 2

August 8 at KeySpan Park

The Cyclones losing streak reached four games with their loss to the New Jersey Cardinals (25-22).

Brooklyn (28-20) took a 1-0 lead in the first inning on a RBI single by Ambiorix Concepcion.

In the bottom of the first, the Cardinals scored three runs off Scott Hyde (2-1), who started and took the loss.

In the second, Brooklyn cut New Jersey's lead to 3-2 when Corey Coles singled in Aaron Hathaway.

New Jersey scored two runs in both the third and fourth innings against Hyde, who allowed seven runs, six of which were earned, over four innings.

Miguel Aguero (4-3) picked up the win for the Cardinals.

Brooklyn 8 New Jersey 1

August 9 at KeySpan Park

The Cyclones broke a four game losing streak as they hit three home runs and a solid effort from starter Michael DeVaney (2-0) who took the win.

The New Jersey Cardinals (25-23) jumped in front 1-0 in the second inning, but Brooklyn

came back in the fourth against Cardinal starter and loser Quinton Robertson (1-1) with a solo home run from Tyler Davidson. Then Ambiorix Concepcion singled and solo second base and scored on an RBI single by Grant Posomas.

In the sixth, Dante Brinkley hit his sixth home run to give the Brooks a 3-1 lead.

They broke the game open with four runs in the seventh.

With one out, Corey Coles triples in a run. After Derran Watts walked, Brinkley doubled in two more runs and Davidson singled in Brinkley.

In the eighth inning, Brooklyn ended the scoring for the game when Matt Fisher hit a solo homer to left.

Staten Island 6 Brooklyn 3
August 10 at KeySpan Park

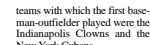
The first place Cyclones took on the last place Staten Island Yankees in a Battle of the Bridge rivalry, and when the single by Scott Hyde, who had played the spoiler role in defeating the McNamara Division leaders.

Brooklyn (29-21) jumped off to the lead in the second inning when Aaron Hathaway singled in Grant Posomas.

The Yankees tied up the contest with a run in the fourth.

The Cyclones went back into the lead in the fourth when Hathaway doubled and Matt Fisher drove in the catcher with a triple.

Fisher later scored on a passed ball to give the Brooks a



teams with which the first baseman-outfielder played were the Indianapolis Clowns and the New York Cubans.

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The Play's the Thing

with Ed Shakespeare

Clones fans react to Mets latest trades

KEYSPAN PARK is normally a pretty happy place. After a 44-year absence, the return of professional baseball in 2001 to Brooklyn was greeted with open arms. Those arms aren't so open right now, and here's why.

In the flurry of New York Mets trades on the day before the July 31 trading deadline, three of the Mets' most promising players were involved in trades for major league pitchers

Victor Zambrano and Kris Benson. The three promising players all had once played for the Brooklyn Cyclones. Catcher Justin Huber and pitcher Matt Peterson played for the Cyclones inaugural team, and hurler Scott Kazmir played for Brooklyn in 2002.

Did the Mets improve their 2004 team with the trade? No question, they did.

But did the trade make Cyclones fans happy? Yes, it did! And if you believe that statement, there's a beautiful suspension structure built by Roebing over the East River, and have I got a deal for you!

So let's see why the mention of the Mets trades brought grins to the faces of Cyclones supporters and statements that don't belong in a family newspaper.

One of the selling points to minor league baseball is the advertised opportunity for fans to see future major league players develop and eventually rise to the majors.

According to a study by Allan Simpson, the editor-in-chief of Baseball America, the Bible of baseball fans, only 10 percent of minor league players ever make it to the major leagues, a fact of which most neophyte minor league fans aren't aware, but a truth that Cyclones fans are becoming increasingly aware of.

I have been present at many minor league ballparks over the years, but I have never seen the personal interest in their teams' players as I have seen exhibited by Brooklyn fans for the members of the Cyclones.

There are always a few diehard fans rooting for each minor league team, but many of the fans in other minor league cities are rather casual about their team. These aficionados enjoy the game, become aware of a few players, grab a hot dog and a few beers, and go home happy.

It's much more than such a casual level of involvement for many Cyclones fans. And the tendency for Brooklyn fans to be personally involved with their baseball team goes back to the Dodgers.

Brooklyn had a personal attachment to their players. Most of the Dodgers lived in Brooklyn during the season, many of them in Bay Ridge.

Some of the Cyclones fans remember those days, some do not. But there is a sort of residual memory enmeshed in Brooklyn fans that means that being a true fan requires a personal connection.

THIS CURRENT CYCLONES fans don't just root for the Brooks; they know them. And they keep on knowing the Cyclones as the players move up the farm system ladder. And when they get traded away...

"As fans of the Mets and Cyclones in 2002, we had not so great seasons for both teams, but when we saw Kazmir's fast ball, and his good attitude and the way he interacted with fans, we had hope," said Patrick Witt, a Cyclones season ticket holder and the operator of a Cyclones' web-site. "Now we have nothing!"

Besides, trading young talent is normally the work of a certain other New York baseball team.

"As Cyclones fans, we would look at moves that the New York Yankees were making in trading off these young, potential stars of their franchise and we'd snicker at them," said Witt. "And now their fans are laughing at us."

Other fans concur. "The trades of the former Cyclones were ridiculous," said Marty Bromberger of Coney Island. "We knew the guys when they played here, and it's like losing friends."

"We've seen the effect it's had on the players here," Bromberger continued. "I've talked to them and some of the players are demoralized, figuring that they'll someday be traded as well, before they get a chance with the Mets. It's affected their moral. They feel that if the Mets need a baby, they'll be traded."

Donna and Don Byrnes, Cyclones fans from Bay Ridge, were disappointed in a different way.

"My husband, Don, looked on the Internet in the morning and he said to me, 'Hey, Donna, want to take a ride up to Binghamton? Scott's pitching tonight,'" said Donna, who, along with her husband, has been following the team since its inaugural season.

SO THE TWO OF THEM drove over three hours from Brooklyn to see Kazmir pitch, something they had never seen, although they have met Scott numerous times in Brooklyn and in the Mets spring training home in Port St. Lucie, Florida.

"Just as we walk in the door to the Binghamton ballpark, we heard all the fans talking about the trades," recalled Donna. "All of a sudden the door to the players' entrance opened, and Scott [Kazmir] came out and we took one look at him and we knew the trade rumors were true. He should have been in uniform, he should have been preparing, and he had this look on his face, you had to see him. Like he was in space. He looked like a kid lost on a beach. I remember once I was little and lost on a beach and I was scared, and that's the look he had on his face."

"My husband said to Scott, 'Is it true? Have you been traded?' I can't believe it!" And Scott nodded and lead and said to Don, "You can't believe it? I can't believe it!"

"I gave Scott a hug, and I thanked him for all the autographs he gave us," said Donna. "He even apologized to us when he found out that we drove from Brooklyn to see him pitch."

Of the two "real" Cyclones who've played in the majors only one is still with the Mets. Danny Garcia, the first Cyclone player to make the majors, has flip-flopped between Norfolk, the Mets top farm club, and the Mets. Leany Dinao, the second Cyclone to make the majors, pitched for the Boston Red Sox earlier this season, but he is now on their disabled list.

Cyclones fans are well aware that baseball is a business. But fans don't root for businesses; they root for human beings. And a lot of the fun that the fans had in waiting for the Cyclones to reach the majors has been lost since Justin Huber, Matt Peterson, and Scott Kazmir were traded.

"It definitely bothers you when the former Cyclones are traded," said Donna. "It's like watching your own kids grow up. You want to be there when they finally grow up and make it in life."

"You want to be there for the wedding day."

Brooklyn Papers columnist Ed Shakespeare's book, "When Baseball Returned to Brooklyn," is available at amazon.com.

NOT JUST NETS • THE NEW BROOKLYN • NOT JUST NETS

Under pressure, Walentas scales back 38 Water St., near Brooklyn Bridge

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

Following community outcry over a proposed 16-story building adjacent to the Brooklyn Bridge, developer David Walentas unveiled plans this week to scale back part of his residential and commercial project.

The new plans, presented to the Department of City Planning Monday afternoon, include shaving the building height down to eight stories along a stretch of the property closest to the bridge.

But opponents of the project say the

changes don't go far enough.

"The bulk and density is still too great for that location," said Gerry Vasisko, an architect and planner who heads the land use committee of the Brooklyn Heights Association and attended Monday's meeting.

Earlier this year, both Community Board 2 and Borough President Marty Markowitz voted down the proposed project, which is currently winding its way through the city Uniform Land Use Review Process in seeking a zoning change for the site, currently reserved for manufacturing.

Critics called the project "ill-conceived" and out of scale with existing low-rise build-

ings. They are concerned it would cast shadows on the planned Brooklyn Bridge Park commercial and recreational development.

The largest objection is that the new building — which would rise at the 38 Water St. site that is now home to the single-story St. Ann's Warehouse performance space — might obstruct views of the iconic Brooklyn Bridge, just 70 feet away.

In order to address those issues, Walentas, a principal of Two Trees Management, which is largely responsible for converting DUMBO from a decaying industrial neighborhood to a thriving residential and commercial hotspot, went back to the

drawing board.

In the new version, the tallest part of the building would be set back 132 feet, while the rest of the building would stand flush with the bridge overpass.

The proposed building also calls for 8,000 square feet of retail space along Water Street, an 8,000-square-foot performance space that would be rented to a non-profit arts group, and a 327-space public parking garage with an entrance and exit along Front Street.

To maintain roughly the same number of apartment units, Walentas would add a penthouse tower, reduce ceiling heights and the

overall size of each apartment, and cut the community space down to 3,000 square feet.

Those changes would allow him to reduce the overall residential area to 190,000 square feet from the proposed 200,000 square feet.

City Planning Commissioner Amanda Burden praised the changes.

"The developers have come a long way in cutting a big chunk of the building off," said Burden who called the changes a good compromise.

Other planning commissioners said the building should be pushed back even further and stressed the importance of main-

taining open views.

In its recommendations, CB2 passed a resolution in May asking that future proposals for the site be lower than the Brooklyn Bridge roadway and be consistent with the adjacent buildings.

"We're trying to find a solution where we can get an economic building approved that's responsive to the community's concerns," said Jed Walentas, a principal of Two Trees Management and son of David.

The City Planning Commission is scheduled to cast its vote at a public meeting at the City Planning offices at 22 Reade St. at 1 pm on Aug. 25.

Nets protestors making demands

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

Developer Bruce Ratner received the final stamp of approval from the National Basketball Association to purchase the New Jersey Nets, but elected officials and opponents of the Atlantic Yards say the game is not over.

Prospect Heights Councilwoman Letitia James and community activists gathered on the steps of City Hall Thursday afternoon to criticize the NBA "for failing to listen to the voice of Brooklyn" and demand city oversight on the proposed Atlantic Yards development project.

"If Mr. Ratner thinks we are going to roll over and play dead for his arrogant proposed over development, he is wrong," said Daniel Goldstein, a spokesman for Develop

Don't Destroy Brooklyn, a group formed to fight the project.

The sale of the Nets to an investment team headed by Ratner was unanimously approved by the NBA board of governors on Wednesday.

Ratner plans to build a 19,000-seat arena at the intersection of Atlantic and Flatbush avenues. As part of a \$2.5 billion development project that includes 17 soaring towers with 4,500 units of housing and 2.1

million square feet of office space.

As part of the plan, Ratner would either have to buy out or ask the state to condemn over 10-acres of private property. The Empire State Development Corp. is expected to be named the lead agency in the project, which would cut out the city council and local community boards from the official review process.

Councilwoman Christine Quinn, who is fighting the West Side development project including a Jets arena in her Manhattan district, and councilmen Larry Seabrook and Bill Perkins all joined in demanding the development proposal go through a city review process.

That this development will take place without any community oversight is a smack in the face to the community," said Perkins.

The group also called for public disclosure of all city and state subsidies being requested by the developer, the elimination of eminent domain, and a legally binding contract guaranteeing jobs and affordable housing.

Says Goldstein, "Now it's time for the people we've entrusted to protect us — our elected officials — to get off the bench, get in the game and live up to their responsibilities."



Topped off

Construction workers continue building "The Court House" at the corner of Atlantic Avenue and Court Street, Downtown. The building, which will house rental apartments and a new YMCA, was officially topped off on Wednesday by owner David Walentas of Two Trees Management.

PROBE...

Continued from page 1

James, an ardent opponent of the arena. "But we were promised facts at the city council hearing, we have yet to receive them. For the IBO to do a full and complete analysis they would need all of the information."

At a city council hearing on May 4, Andrew Alper, president of the Economic Development Corporation, a city-run organization with the stated objective of spurring business and industrial growth, praised the project, saying the "benefits far outweigh the costs."

Asked by several council members how much money the city expected to plank down, Alper said they were still working on the figures and would have them in several weeks.

James sent letters to both the mayor and Speaker Gifford Miller last month asking for an independent study on the arena after opponents released their own study claiming the project could cost the city over \$500 million.

The economic study on the arena commissioned by Ratner estimated the cost to taxpayers at \$449 million, although overall projected a net gain from Atlantic Yards.

Last week, the IBO released an analysis of the proposed Hudson Yards development plan on Manhattan's West Side including a stadium for the National Football League's New York Jets, claiming the project posed significant risks to the city budget.

The study was conducted after the Bloomberg administration was criticized for relying on a report by Ernst & Young that was commissioned by the team.

Economist Theresa Devine, who completed the Hudson Yards analysis, will take the lead on the Atlantic Yards study, according to Turetsky.

"I think it's wonderful that the IBO will take a serious look at this," said Patti Hagan, a spokeswoman for Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn, "because maybe they can get some of the numbers that we have thus far been unable to find."



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Thanks to all the local artists for submitting artwork illustrating the theme, "Brooklyn: My Neighborhood, My Home." Place your vote at our customer service desk by Sept. 1, or visit Lowe's.com/GowanusMural. The grand prize winning artist will be announced Sept. 10 and will receive \$10,000. Their vision of Brooklyn will become a mural painted on the walls outside our new Gowanus store. Limit one vote per person.





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The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

August 14, 2004



Get on the bus

Touring musical comedy aims to rally the vote against Bush

By Paulanne Simmons
for The Brooklyn Papers

Theater for the New City's 28th annual street theater extravaganza, "Code Orange: On the M15," starts with the amiable, but frustrated, Bus Driver taking his bus uptown and ends with him and all his passengers urging the audience to get on the bus, singing the inspirational lyrics. "We can change. We can move. We can get back in the groove."

Written and directed by Theater for the New City (TNC) Executive Director Crystal Field, with music by Joseph Vernon Banks, the show will tour the five boroughs' streets, parks and playgrounds in the next two weeks, exhorting New Yorkers to get their act together and get out and vote. More specifically — to vote President Bush out of the White House.

Like Field's previous summer shows ("State of the Union," "The Patients Are Running the Asylum," "Bio-Tech"), "Code Orange" is an adult fairytale that preaches empowerment for ordinary citizens. The people on this bus are typical New Yorkers. They come on board with their cell phones, their children, their complaints and their gossip. They are also the ensemble that keeps the musical comedy in tune and intriguing.

They sing of the maladies that afflict city life in "Urban Olympics" — under-funded schools, crime, poverty. When a pregnant lady comes on board and the bus driver delivers her baby, they accompany the delivery with a musical arrangement worthy of Bernstein — or at least Andrew Lloyd Webber.

The Bus Driver (the excellent Michael David Gordon) is despondent because he has been unable to secure a "rich route" during daylight hours and is stuck with a nighttime route on a bus that is the refuge of drunks, crooks, and noisy college students, all of whom argue with him and trash his bus.

THEATER

Theater for the New City's "Code Orange: On the M15" will be at Herbert Von King Park on Lafayette Avenue between Marcy and Tompkins avenues in Bedford Stuyvesant on Aug. 15 at 2 p.m.; on the boardwalk at W. 10th Street in Coney Island on Aug. 20 at 8 p.m.; and Prospect Park's concert grove (enter at Lincoln Road off Ocean Avenue in Prospect-Lefferts Gardens) on Aug. 28 at 2 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, call (212) 254-1109.

When, after delivering the baby, the Bus Driver gets into trouble for arriving late at the depot, he is so depressed he resolves to drown himself in the East River. But just as he's about to end his life, the Bus Driver discovers a bottle from which a genie (Mark Marcante) soon busts forth.

The genie (complete with turban, vest and pointed shoes) now offers the Bus Driver the proverbial three wishes. He takes the Bus



'Orange' alert: Mark Marcante as the Genie and Michael David Gordon as the Bus Driver in Theater for the New City's latest outdoor production, "Code Orange: On the M15." (Above left) The Bus Driver despairs over his rowdy passengers.

Driver around the world, where they are consistently met with anti-American demonstrations; to the White House, where Bush, Rice, Powell, Ashcroft, et al. — Haideen Anderson's masks are fantastic! — rob the populace to the hip-hop tune "We Got the Bling Bling"; to the Republican Convention, where delegates dance to the "Politician Tango" ("It won't be our sons and daughters who get slaughtered"); and to City Hall, where an overbored mayor is trying to deal with his own demonstrators.

On the trip, the Bus Driver meets an assortment of interesting people. The best of these are the President's fellow-Texans, the "Dixie Chicklets," who harmonize about how they've been kicked off the radio by Clear Channel and warble "Mr. President, are you still a resident of our home state?" Some people may be happy when, at the end of this scene, they take him home.

More vaudeville than Broadway, TNC's Street Theater makes use of an assemblage of

trap doors, live musicians, masks, changing flats and a 9-foot by 12-foot "cranky," a running scene that provides seamless scene changes. The 25 actors who comprise the cast are of varying talents and experience. They range from Equity actors to talented amateurs. But they all share the same enthusiasm and dedication to the principles that have made this country great — freedom, diversity, justice and equality. (Actor-activist Tim Robbins was a member of the company from age 12 to 18.)

These are contentious times. It's an election year; the country is engaged in a controversial war, and polls seem to indicate the population is split down the middle. Field, like her soulmate, filmmaker Michael Moore, leaves no doubt as to where her sympathies lie. And like Moore, she may be preaching to the choir.

But whether you're in the choir, manning the barricades or on the battlefield, "Code Orange" may be one of the most provocative shows you see this year.

BOOKS

More to love

An updated and expanded third edition of the "Brooklyn" guidebook has hit bookstores with a new subtitle, "The Ultimate Guide to New York's Most Happening Borough."



This time around Park Slope author Ellen Freudenheim has been joined by her daughter Anna Wiener to update this softcover tome which covers 18 neighborhoods.

The book offers detailed maps of each neighborhood and exhaustively lists descriptions of 1500

Brooklyn shops, restaurants, historical sights and points of cultural interest in addition to listing bed and breakfasts.

"Brooklyn: The Ultimate Guide to New York's Most Happening Borough" (St. Martin's Griffin, \$17.95) is available in local bookstores.

— Lisa J. Curtis

MUSIC

Regular folk

Grab your banjo, fiddle and bagpipes, the Eisteddfod Folk Festival is in town.

This weekend, folk musicians and aficionados celebrate the legacy of traditional American and British music at this three-day festival in Downtown Brooklyn.

On Saturday evening, Aug. 14, folk icons like Oscar Brown; Andy Cohen; and a Brooklyn choir, Bishop Nathaniel Townsley, Jr. and the Gospel Jubilee, will have concertgoers kicking up their bare feet.

Sunday evening promises to be equally as folksy with Ralph Boddington, Heady West, NextTradition and the Ladino duo, Danny and Joe Elias playing their unique blend of Spanish and Jewish music.

Also on Saturday and Sunday, workshops are available for those interested in sharpening their folk skills. Guest performers will cover a range of subjects including banjo styles, labor songs, jug bands and gospel music.

Vocalist Julia Friend (pictured) will join her father Alan Friend, who plays guitar, banjo and concertina, for a "Friends for Life" workshop on Saturday from 11 am to noon; on Saturday, from 2 to 3 pm, Julia will participate in the "Strong Women" workshop; and on Sunday from 12:30 pm to 2 pm, Julia will moderate the "Ballad Workshop."

Folklores and records are also on sale at the festival.

The Eisteddfod Festival kicked off Friday, Aug. 13. Remaining concerts are Aug. 14 at 7:30 pm and Aug. 15 at 2:15 pm. Concert tickets are \$25. Performances are held in the Dibrer Library Auditorium at Polytech-30 from 12:30 pm to 2 pm, Saturdays workshops are \$30 and Sunday's workshops are \$20. For more information, call (718) 426-8555 or visit www.eisteddfod.org.

— Christina Rogers

DANCE



New at WAX

Choreographers Erica Sobol and Chris Hale will debut their dance company, Collide, at the Williamsburg Art Nexus on Aug. 14 and 15.

In their evening-length work "Collide (with me)," Sobol and Hale experiment with blurring the lines between dance and theater.

The 16 dancers in "Collide (with me)" perform jazz, set to contemporary music by artists ranging from Alanis Morissette to Ben Folds Five in a black box theater.

"Collide (with me)" performances are Aug. 14 at 3 pm and 8 pm and Aug. 15 at 7 pm. Tickets are \$20. The Williamsburg Art Nexus is located at 205 North 7th St. between Driggs Avenue and Roelbling Street. For reservations, call (718) 599-7997.

— Lisa J. Curtis

A toast to the chefs

Restaurateurs competed in the kitchen — and on sailboats — on Aug. 8 to raise funds for a teen sailing program as part of the Restaurant Regatta 2004. After the chefs and their crews each raced 1-2.4 sailboats owned by the Manhattan Sailing Club (a knowledgeable skipper from the club was assigned to each boat), they sped into the Bubble Lounge champagne bar at 228 West Broadway to set up for the second leg of the competition.

In the culinary contest, which paired hors d'oeuvres with Nicolas Feuillate champagnes, Manhattan's Butter restaurant won the top prize for their brie and black currant sandwich with curried mushrooms paired with the Brut Blanc de Blancs Premier Cru de Chardonnay. Bay Ridge's Provence En Boite restaurant and partner received a special citation — a magnum of champagne — for their elegantly arranged, scrumptious variety of mousses paired with the Brut Rose Premier Cru.

While Chanterelle restaurant of Manhattan came in first in the boat race, Provence En Boite chef Jean-Jacques Benoit (pictured at right with his wife Leslie, son Jacques, 4, and daughter Andrea, 6) and his boating team (at left) came in sixth out of eight boats. Not bad for a team with no boating experience — which Leslie confessed at the boisterous party set in motion by French girl band, Paprika.

The benefit raised \$1,500 for the club's free sailing program for New York City teens.

For more information about the Manhattan Sailing Club, visit the Web site at www.myc.org. For more information, about Provence En Boite (8303 Third Ave., at 83rd Street), call (718) 759-1515 or visit the Web site at www.provenceenboite.com.

— Lisa J. Curtis



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Buckle your seatbelts

Korean Film Fest promises 'Inner Turbulence' at BAM

By Drew Pizarra
for The Brooklyn Papers

With a disarming mix of treacle and bloodshed, the fourth annual New York Korean Film Festival more than lives up to this year's titular catchphrase "Inner Turbulence." In the seven features and six shorts — screened at BAMcinematek from Friday Aug. 20 to Sunday Aug. 22 — characters, movies and even the industry itself appear at war with themselves. But victors do emerge.

Although South Korean films have yet to assume the stature of those from nearby China and neighboring Japan, the national cinema has recently garnered substantial attention from the international film community. This year, director Park Chan-wook's revenge thriller "Old Boy" won the Grand Prix at Cannes; two years ago, Moon So-ri won a Venice Film Festival prize for her portrayal of a woman with cerebral palsy in "Oasis."

These accolades duly noted, this year's lineup suggests the quickest way

to sizable American audiences may be through midnight screenings at the Cinéplex instead of repertory programming at the art house: "Save the Green Planet," the punchiest entry in the field, could easily translate into a late-night knockout if circumstances allow.

Director Jang Jun-hwan's feature debut but certainly has all the prerequisites for a cult hit: a bizarrely intricate, conspiracy-driven plot, mentally deranged characters with diabolical loyalties, scrappy, do-it-yourself sci-fi costumes, and plenty of astonishing, over-the-top performances shot in a kinetic, colorful style.

By weaving homeland obsessions (serial killers, institutionalized conformity) with global preoccupations (systematized brutality, ethnic cleansing, threatened ecosystems), Jang ensures his serio-camp science fiction relates a distinctly Korean flavor while resonating across cultural borders. The nail-biting tension sustained between his two central characters — a paranoid beekeeper and his kidnapped nemesis,



'Wild' ride: New York Korean Film Festival movies to be shown at BAMcinematek include (clockwise from top left) "Save the Green Planet," "A Good Lawyer's Wife" and "Wild Card."



a CEO who may or may not be a war-mongering alien from Andromeda — plays like a loopy "Manichurian Candidate" (2004) made all the more artful by slyly built-in homages to cinematic masterworks like "La Strada" (1954) and "The Wizard of Oz" (1939).

Tellingly, "Save the Green Planet" is one of three festival films to focus on mass murderers. Another, "Memories of Murder," is based on the true story of Korea's first serial killer who raped and killed 10 women in the Kyonggi province in the late 1980s and the early 1990s. (This film is one of seven shown solely at the The ImaginAsian Theater at 239 East 59th St. in Manhattan during the earlier part of the festival which, began on Aug. 13.)

The third, simply titled "H," is a richly atmospheric, awkwardly plotted

whodunit along the lines of latter-day B-movies like "Identity" (2003) and "Never Talk to a Stranger" (1995). Pitch-perfect in terms of tone, Lee Jong-hyuk's modern-day noir doesn't skimp on graphic depictions of violence. Ears are lopped off. Throats are slit. An unborn baby's arm reaches out from its dead mother's side.

The body count mounts. The generic anime "Sky Blue" climaxes with blood spiraling upward from gunshot, star-crossed lovers to an operatic score; the 12-minute parable "Face Value" (part of the shorts compilation "If You Were Me") culminates in a car crash; the police drama "Wild Card" punctuates its good-cop bad-cop narrative with head-bashing liquor bottles and a repeatedly well-aimed mace ball (familiar to "Kill Bill" fans as the grisly weapon of choice for G-Go Yuhari).

Even Im Sang-soo's family drama "A Good Lawyer's Wife" ends up at the local morgue. This sophisticated critique of contemporary morals starts with a series of serio-comic episodes about cheating spouses. But before long, the lightweight, soft-porn reality is layered with weighty social commentary as one character's constant carnal craving sets off a disastrous domino effect. By the time Moon (the aforementioned award-winning actress from "Oasis") has straddled her next-door neighbor's emotionally stunted son, the eroticism has left the theater. As was made clear in 2001's

"Monster's Ball," nothing is sadder than sex fueled by grief.

The festival's two cheerier entries, "The Classic" and "Singles," relate a cock-eyed optimism that supersedes Hollywood's happy endings. The former, Kwak Jae-yong's Asian blockbuster, leavens two tearjerking epistolary narratives with improbable coincidences and fireflies which never die; as to "Singles," Kwon Chil-in's twenty-something four-hander is a true oddity — a potty-mouthed comedy of manners that evolves into neutered lesbian dramedy.

For moviegoers bent on using the program of shorts, "If You Were Me," as a way to see the full breadth of styles within a single sitting, one warning: This series, funded by the Human Rights Commission of Korea, is tinged with didacticism. So while the surgical procedure forced on children to improve English pronunciation in Park Jin-pyo's "Tongue Tie" is harrowing, it still registers as purposeful fiction.

The one exception is the 28-minute documentary from Cannes' current prize-winner Park Chan-wook. A seamless blend of staged reenactments and talking heads, "N.E.P.A.L. Never Ending Peace and Love" recounts the tale of a Nepalese woman who was misdiagnosed as mentally ill for over six years because no one on the hospital staff spoke her language. Thank God for subtitles.

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Absinthe-minded

LeNell's, a year-old wine and spirit boutique in Red Hook, educated customers about the charms of Versinthe — a legal version of absinthe, the hallucinogenic aperitif popular in late 19th century Paris — with a tasting on Aug. 7.

Glorious tributes to the Green Fairy-inducing liqueur have been projected on the silver screen in two popular 2001 films: Baz Luhrmann's "Moulin Rouge" and the Hughes Brothers' "From Hell." A new book by J. Adams, "Hideous Absinthe: A History of the Devil in a Bottle" (University of Wisconsin, \$24.95), was released just this year.

The attraction to contemporary absinthe aficionados seems to have as much to do with the taste of the anise-flavored drink as it does with the ritual of making it palatable.

As demonstrated at LeNell's, making a glass of Baron François Ltd.'s Versinthe is an elegant production. A fountain with silver spigots is filled with ice water. The spigot is twisted to release chilled water over sugar cubes poised on a slotted spoon. The sugar water runs through the spoon and into a glass of Versinthe. (The drink is made with six parts water to one part Versinthe.) The sugar water cuts the green liqueur, turning it opaque.

The Versinthe is not absinthe-green because the company does not use artificial colors, explained LeNell's proprietor Tonya LeNell. Versinthe. Nor does it have the agent blamed for absinthe's Green Fairy-induced

ducing daydreams, wormwood.

"The high alcohol content — 60 percent and higher — of the old absinthes was more to blame than wormwood," Smithers believes. "And overlooking..."

At LeNell's, the fountain is sold for \$40; a 750 milliliter bottle of Versinthe is \$33; and a 750 milliliter bottle of Versinthe with two glasses and two spoons is \$40. But this isn't your grandfa-

ther's intimidating, warehouse-like liquor store. Buy anything from the boutique, replete with chandelier and a built-in full of — what else? — gin, and it will be packaged in one of the shop's leopard print bags.
LeNell's is located at 416 Van Brunt St. between Coffey and Van Dyke. For more information, call (718) 360-0838 or visit www.lenells.com.
— Lisa J. Curtis

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BROOKLYN

Neighborhood Dining Guide

This week: BROOKLYN HEIGHTS

Alicia's Cafe & Eatery

10 Columbia Pl. at Joralemon Street, (718) 532-0050 or (718) 532-0069, (DC, Disc, MC, Visa)
Entrees: \$13-\$17.

Owner Wayne Anderson opened Alicia's, on charming, residential Columbia Place in Brooklyn Heights, in October 2001. It's worth the trip off the beaten track to get to Chef Sibe Keers' French-American menu.

"It's an eclectic menu, but we're French in terms of our sauces and presentation," explained Anderson. Among the temptations on Keers' menu are roasted lamb loin with thyme flowers, sugar snaps and grain dauphinois (roasted potatoes with sour cream and garlic), and grilled salmon and jumbo shrimp with steamed vegetables in a saffron broth. According to Anderson, the fried potato skins and the anguilla salad with cherry tomatoes topped with lemon oil and parmesan cheese are both memorable starters.

Come back for brunch to try the panache Napoleon: pancakes layered with warm fruit, whipped cream and served with a run-butter sauce.

Open for dinner Tuesday through Sunday and weekend brunch from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Note: For the month of August, Alicia's will be closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays in addition to Mondays. Delivery available.

Andy's

128 Montague St. at Henry Street, (718) 237-8899 (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$7-\$15.

This popular Chinese restaurant serves many varieties of chicken, vegetable and seafood dishes. Special Andy's creations include grilled salmon with garlic sauce and sliced duck with orange sauce. Spicy Hunan and Szechuan dishes abound, like chicken and shrimp and Mongolian beef. The attentive waitstaff is constantly at your elbow filling your wine glass or providing steaming pots of tea.

Archives

333 Adams St. at Tillary Street, (718) 222-6543, www.menormio.com/fishbowl (AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$17-\$32.

The spacious restaurant in the New York Marriott Brooklyn hotel is elegant, with comfortable seating. Archives offers a wide variety of seafood, pasta, poultry, beef and vegetable dishes for every taste. A typically hearty entrée by executive chef Walter Plender is the barbecued Australian rack of lamb with grilled potatoes and mixed vegetables. Other indulgences include the Sunday Champagne brunch. Open daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Chipotle Mexican Grill

185 Montague St. bet. Court and Clinton streets, (718) 243-9700, www.chipotle.com (AmEx, MC, V) Entrees: \$5.50-\$6.75.

On Friday, July 30, 2004, the ever-popular Chipotle Mexican Grill chain unveiled a new, sleek restaurant in Brooklyn Heights. Although the menu is small, none of the choices will ever hunger Brooklynites wrong. The huge, 20-ounce burritos, made right before your eyes, are over-stuffed with your choice of meats and/or vegetables, rice, beans and condiments. There is even a fajita burrito. Chipotle's guacamole is made fresh throughout the day. Margaritas and beer are also available. Since the company, owned by McDonald's, prides itself on fresh and savory ingredients, that's what the restaurant offers from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily.

Eamon's

174 Montague St. at Clinton Street, (718) 596-4969, www.eamons.com (AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$10.95-\$18.95.

Eamon's simply has it all: a decor that is timeless and comfortable, an enclosed sidewalk cafe, an active and friendly bar, an upstairs dining room that can accommodate private parties up to 50, and something on the menu that everyone will like. You'll find a large selection of salads, sandwiches, hearty entrees and Eamon's traditional fare like Irish sausage and mashed potatoes with onion gravy or chicken pot pie. There is also a prix fixe dinner selection for \$19.50, which includes soup, salad, select entree, dessert and coffee. Brunch at Eamon's runs 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

Henry's End

44 Henry St. at Grand Street, (718) 634-1776, www.henrysand.com (AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$15.95-\$22.95.

Located just a couple of blocks from the Brooklyn Heights promenade, Henry's End, a casual neighborhood restaurant, promises a wonderful meal and a cozy, romantic atmosphere. Chef-owner Mark Lahm creates entrees like chicken with pears, wal-

★ = Read more at



Abbreviation Key: AmEx= American Express, DC= Diner's Club, Disc= Discover Card, MC= MasterCard, Visa= Visa Card



A bird's-eye view of the new Chipotle Mexican Grill on Montague Street.

nuts, and blue cheese, and duck with wild mushrooms. Warm up with his New Orleans turtle soup with shrimp. Make sure to visit Henry's End in the fall and winter (October-March) for the Wild Game Festival, where exotic cuisine like the herb-crusted elk and pepper-crusted venison are legendary. For dessert, Lahm recommends the strawberry creme brûlée Napoleon. Open daily for dinner.

La Traviata

139 Montague St. at Clinton Street, (718) 858-5592; 161 Joralemon St. at Clinton Street, (718) 858-4700, www.latraviatopizza.com (AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$10.25-\$15.25.

This is a great father-and-son act. Ralph Tommaso Jr. and his dad take a personal interest in their popular Brooklyn Heights eateries, and this interest can be seen in every detail—from the marble fountain in the rear patio at the Montague Street location to the friendly staff and ample menu at both establishments. La Traviata offers all those dishes that have made Italy a gourmet's delight—chicken alla Marella, veal scaloppini, shrimp scampi. Lighter fare includes thin-crust pizza with an extensive selection of toppings. Delivery service via phone or the Web site at the Joralemon Street location. Weather permitting, sidewalk cafe seats are available.

Lichee Nut

162 Montague St. at Clinton Street, downtown, (718) 522-5565 (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$6-\$12. This Brooklyn Heights Chinese restaurant has had several locations, owners and chefs, but throughout has maintained the high quality that has kept customers coming back for over 20 years. Owner Jerry Shen has dedicated himself to keeping the restaurant's fare authentic. Chef Eric Wu cooks in both Szechuan and Cantonese styles and prepares a broad spectrum of dishes. The house special is a generous plate of jumbo shrimp sautéed with Chinese vegetables and chicken nuts—which, by the way, are not nuts at all, but sweet and succulent fruit.

Queen

64 Court St. bet. Livingston and Schermerhorn streets, (718) 596-5955, www.queenrestaurant.com (AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$14-\$22.

Now in its 46th year, Queen recently underwent a facelift to bring its decor up to the high standards set by its traditional but not stodgy Italian menu. Just a hop and a skip from Borough Hall, Queen has a three-course, \$23.99 prix fixe lunch menu for the business crowd, offered until 6 p.m. everyday. Dinner features sumptuous fare, like homemade specialty meat that changes weekly and chicken breasts dusted with parmesan and a sauce of fresh peas, shallots and white wine. Brothers Pasquale and Vincent Vissio, who took over operations from their father, Anthony, impress with their long list of daily specials, too. Open daily.

Shinjuku Japanese Cuisine

100 Avenue C at Clinton Street, (AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, V) (718) 935-1300. Entrees: \$9.95 to \$45.95 (for the "Love Boat" for two).

While the decor is "Bollywood industrial," according to manager Jack Liu, the Shinjuku menu has all of the traditional Japanese favorites and a few surprises. For two big eaters, Liu recommends the "Love Boat": 10 pieces of sushi, 21 slices of sashimi, one roll, roll selected by the chef and the Alaskan salmon roll plus miso soup and salad. Although specials change every couple of weeks, Shinjuku is currently serving seared pepper tuna wrapped in organic green.

The wine list of Shinjuku, which opened in July 2003, is continuously growing; they also offer four sakes: three cold and one hot. Liu can accommodate parties up to 12 behind the screens of the private dining room, the perfect place for a casual on the Love Boat. Open Monday through Friday for lunch. Dinner served daily.

Teresa's

80 Montague St. at Hicks Street, (718) 797-3996 (DC, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$7.95-\$16.95.

Sip a beer or cocktail while you look over Teresa's menu of Polish and American specialties, like pierogi filled with spinach, cheese, potato, meat or sauerkraut, either fried or boiled. Delicious cheese and plum butter blintzes, and incredible apple fritters await you as well. Enjoy classics like Polish kielbasa, veal goulash, stuffed cabbage or peppers in tomato sauce or beef stroganoff. For dessert? Choose from many homemade pies and cakes, or go for an ice cream social from the fountain. Open daily.

The Brooklyn Papers: J. Lee Davis



Naughty by nature

Le Gamín should give time-out to buckwheat crepes

By Tina Barry
For The Brooklyn Papers

A few days before I dined with a friend in Le Gamín, a new French cafe in Prospect Heights, I stuck my head in to get a feel for the place. It was around 3 o'clock in the afternoon and a few people were picking at late lunches while they read. A couple of mothers, infants sleeping soundly in carriages nearby, were deep in conversation over huge cafe au lait cups.

Through the back windows I could see tables in a sun-dappled garden shaded by huge trees.

The night I returned to Le Gamín, the rain was biblical.

sheets of it whipped under my umbrella, drenching our heads and soaking our jeans up to the knees. We shook our hair out like wet dogs and settled at a table inside the cafe. Our waiter greeted, murmuring his sympathy in a heavy French accent.

He whisked away the awful bottle of Chardonnay, chosen from the dismal selection in a liquor store across the street, and poured us each a glass. (Until mid-September, when their liquor li-

cense is approved, the restaurant has a BYOB policy without a corkage fee.)

The room—with its handwritten signs informing guests of the special "les moules" and "les crepes" of the evening, the long counter where two cooks prepared salads and filled crepes, and the French singers, mercifully quiet, humming in the background—made the cafe especially inviting on a rainy evening.

Owner Kathy Palm was a regular in Le Gamín's East Village branch. She loved the hospitality of Le Gamín (French for "naughty boy") and vowed to open her own with a similar easy-going warmth. Her cafe, one of a mini-chain of French

cafes with two in New York City and one in Boston, opened in June. Her catchy answers the need for a comfortable place to hang out and drink coffee or dine on a light meal, that the stretch of Vanderbilt Avenue—wedged between Park Slope and Fort Greene—desperately needs.

To read the paper over an excellent cafe au lait, nibble a buttery croissant or linger over a plate of fresh fruit, there's no better place than Le Gamín; how-

Orange you hungry? (Above) Crepe à l'orange with caramel sauce and a cafe au lait are worth the trip to Le Gamín. (Top left) Itoi Kris (left) and Clay Ross perform Brazilian music in the French cafe's garden.

er, anything more complicated than a salad or sandwich gets tricky.

Part of the problem is the kitchen's setup, or, in this case, counter arrangement. Behind a long half-wall, two cooks do their best to turn out the dishes on a couple of hot plates, electric crepe pans and a microwave oven. The appliances are serviceable for quick preparations; less so for any dish that needs slower, careful cooking.

The cafe's signature dish is the crepe. The savory versions are made with a buckwheat batter, which is fine if the pancake emerges from the pan thin and crisp-edged with a nutty flavor. But the version we ordered was dreary. This crepe was heavy and the filling of over-salted goat cheese and caramelized leeks didn't help. A mound of mesclun that pairs with the crepe, dressed in well-made, sharp mustard vinaigrette, deserved a more compelling partner.

The cooks fare better with fresh, neatly-plated salads. The organic greens used in the endive, apple and Roquefort plate were crisp and delicately bitter and the cheese pleasantly sharp. The salad was supposed to be

dressed in a vinaigrette enhanced with lavender. It was intriguing but never made to the plate.

Perhaps the moules, another of the cafe's specialties, would be more successful if their broth was reduced to concentrate its flavor. The big pot of the shellfish, easily enough for two to share as a dinner entree, were a bit overcooked and a little sandy. Its creamy saffron sauce with white wine and shallots needed 10 minutes over a burner to develop.

The dessert crepes are the best dishes on the menu. They're made with white flour, so they're finer and lighter tasting, with a slight chewiness and a light, eggy flavor. A thick puddle of Valrhona chocolate fills the crepe. The chocolate's deep, bitter edge complements the sweetness of ripe banana slices. With a cup of coffee, the crepe makes a first-course finale.

Le Gamín does a good job combining the ease of a coffee bar with the understated appeal of a casual French eatery. If the kinks in the cooking are worked out, this cafe could become a place with dishes that satisfy the soul on an evening awash with rain.

News from the Hill

If you think a face becomes more attractive with age and Botox is a sin, you'll be disappointed with two-year-old Hill Diner's extreme makeover. Once the scruffy-yet-lovable new kid on Court Street, owner Refael Hasid (pictured) gutted the space next door to the diner, turning it into a lean, mean, burger-dishing machine. The new Hill Diner, which opened July 10, won't make you nostalgic for the greasy spoon of your youth, but it's a summer.

The original diner's shaky tables and chairs have been replaced with sleek, stainless steel furniture; the wood floors gleam; and the back room opens to nature with an expansive skylight and double-height, glass doors that afford a view of the outdoor seating.

Too much change can be difficult for

diners, so Hasid left the menu alone. You'll find the same omelets, sandwiches, salads, vegetarian options and bistro fare, like the big shrimp dipped in shredded phyllo dough, fried until they resemble little porcupines and served with a tart cilantro and lemon sauce.

There's a BYOB policy until the end of August when the diner receives its liquor license.

Hill Diner, 229 Court St. between Warren and Baltic streets in Boerum Hill) accepts cash only. (Visa, MasterCard and American Express available by Sept. 1.) Entrees: \$9.95-\$14.50. The restaurant serves breakfast, lunch and dinner daily. For more information call (718) 522-2220.

— Tina Barry

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Bad hair day

In 'The Iron Wig,' CEO engages in life-threatening battle with his hair

By Paulanne Simmons
for The Brooklyn Papers

Four weeks of eternal damnation at The Brick Theater's Hell Festival continue on Aug. 2 with "The Iron Wig," written and directed by Jonathan Valuckas.

Set in a penthouse apartment (simply evoked by two easy chairs), "The Iron Wig" relates the downfall of powerful CEO Martin Kane (Hector Costa), who one day looks at himself in the mirror, notices he is losing his hair, and locks himself in his bedroom, refusing to come out until his hairdresser, Pezzo Rodigliani (Andrew Deichman) administers a restorative treatment.

When Rodigliani arrives at the penthouse, he tells Kane's factotum, Clark (Jesse Sourourian), the awful truth behind Kane's panic: Kane is wearing a hairstyle invented by Rodigliani's father centuries ago in which a highly

personalized coiffure is "the spiritual impression of the person...in hair."

In fact, Kane is really Wei Chi Yang, the transferred spirit of a Chinese warlord who lived 700 years ago. And it is his spirit that has transformed Kane, once a tough, street-smart punk, into one of the world's most influential busi-

ness moguls.

The problem is that now that his hairstyle is literally going to pieces, Kane (or rather Wei Chi Yang) will die with his hair. The plot unravels through some unexpected twists as Valuckas reveals the darker side of Rodigliani's profession until the story comes to its very satisfying

ending. There's a certain "Alice in Wonderland"-quality to "The Iron Wig," just as Lewis Carroll did in his novel. Valuckas uses faux drama and whimsical fantasy to uncover the capricious and sometimes evil nature of power, and more importantly, how power is transferred.

Coris, who has distinguished himself as Roster in "Annie" and Snoopy in "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," both productions of Brooklyn Family Theatre, has a fine understanding of how to make evil-doers sympathetic.

Sourourian, as Rodigliani the elder, has both mastered the Italian accent and made the absurd meaningful and amusing.

Deichman, who played Linus in "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," has given up his blanket for a more sinister role. Indeed, with his lanky body, long blue robe and goatee, Deichman would have been a dead-ringer for the devil if he'd only sprouted horns.

Valuckas, who is also a board member and director

THEATER

The Hell Festival continues through Aug. 22. The remaining "The Iron Wig" performances are Aug. 14 at 8:45 pm, Aug. 18 at 8:15 pm and Aug. 20 at 9:15 pm. Tickets: \$10. All tickets are sold at the door on a first-come, first-served basis. The Brick Theater is located at 575 Metropolitan Ave. between Union Avenue and Lorimer Street, in Williamsburg. For more information, call (718) 907-6189 or visit www.bricktheater.com.



Wiggling out: In a scene from the new play, "The Iron Wig," a possessed administrative assistant (Jesse Sourourian) dons the magical headpiece.

with Brooklyn Family Theatre, says he wrote the play "on and off while doing shows."

The play started out as the story of the Romanovs," he told GO Brooklyn. "I needed a way to convey the passing of power. But then I decided that, considering what happened to the Romanovs in the end, my story was a bit icky."

Valuckas admits that as the play evolved it no longer fit in entirely with the Hell theme.

The father started out much more "emo-like," he explains. "More like Rasputin."

At 40 minutes, "The Iron Wig" is not much longer than

your average television sitcom or sci-fi drama. And its sly humor, absurd plot and outlandish characters are certainly reminiscent of popular entertainment. But Valuckas has provided a good deal of meat beneath the generous seasoning of wit that makes this play so enjoyable.

In this age of executive machination of the markets, unbounded accumulation of wealth, and the formidable power wielded by multinational corporations, it seems not so far-fetched to imagine a supernatural power at work.

Even if you don't think much of Ralph Nader, you'll get a kick out of this show.

Tracing our roots

On Friday Aug. 20 the Act Now Foundation will host a fundraiser for the documentary-in-progress, "Footsteps of our Fathers" by Cecil Carter (pictured).

The film is a worldwide exploration of Carnival. Over the last three years, Carter has traced the roots of the present-day West Indian American Day Carnival Parade on Flatbush Avenue in Brooklyn to Africa in the 1500s.

The benefit, which begins at 6:30 pm, will include a 15-minute piece of footage from the doc, a slide show by Carter, hors d'oeuvres (from countries mentioned in the documentary) and live music.

According to Act Now Foundation Executive Director Aaron Ingram, the proceeds from the event will be applied to post-production costs of completing the film, such as editing, transcriptions, translations and music rights. The foundation hopes to raise \$3,500 by the end of 2004 and to premiere the film in the winter of 2005.

Act Now, a non-profit with a mission to support theater and film projects about the minority experience in the U.S., was created in January. "Footsteps of our Fathers" is Act Now's first project, said Ingram.

"Footsteps of our Fathers" is an elegantly and beautifully filmed journey of self-discovery, and with our mission statement in mind,



Act Now is proud to participate in the journey and to bring this project to its fruition," said Ingram. The event will be held at South Oxford Space, 138 South Oxford St. between Atlantic Avenue and Hanson Place in Fort Greene. Suggested donation: \$15. For more information, call (212) 413-5144 or visit www.actnowproduction.org. — Lisa J. Curtis



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More choices for gifted students

Since so many parents responded to a recent column about gifted children, I have decided to discuss the topic further.

When 19 students, ages 13 to 15, started out their three-week camp in Reno, Nev., this summer, the transition was rough at first. But soon they were building college-level credits in Japanese, journalism and chemistry, thriving in an environment that fits their exceptional academic ability.

"I can't imagine what a normal science class will be like for them in the fall," says Marie Capurro, director of programs and services at the Davidson Institute, a non-profit organization that is running the camp for gifted students.

The at-risk campers support a controversial viewpoint: Highly gifted kids are better off

socially and academically with students who think at the same level. Matching intellect, not age, best suits the brightest kids, Capurro says, and research backs her up.

A mother had decided not to advance her 8-year-old son based on his maturity level, and a recent Parent to Parent column included comments from parents who were glad they did not accelerate their gifted children. But Capurro says it's important to consider all of the factors involved instead of letting social-emotional concerns close out several options such as skipping by grade or by subjects.

"Some children need to be advanced through school," says a mother whose 14-year-old daughter is happy taking some part-time college courses now but was depressed in first and second grade. "She had no

Parent-to-Parent



By Betsy Flagler

friends with whom to discuss the similarities between 'A Tale of Two Cities' and 'Les Misérables,' for example. Nobody else wanted to learn Latin."

Another mother reflects the view of several readers: "Ac-

celeration should not be ruled out. This mom could at least let her son try fifth grade. It's quite likely that he will fit in there and be much happier, finding social success with intellectual peers rather than with age peers. After all, as adults, do we only have friends and colleagues who are the exact same age as we are?"

A national report by gifted experts, to be released in September, says gifted children are not hurt socially by acceleration. Instead, the report says, skipping by grade or subjects has social and academic advantages.

"We have been conditioned to think that children won't be normal without their social group. That is not necessarily true for all kids," says Jan Davidson, PhD, co-author with her husband of the new book "Genius Denied: How to Stop Wasting Our

Brightest Young Minds" (Simon & Schuster). "Why not group kids by their skill level?"

An effective screening tool to help students, parents, teachers and administrators to make decisions about acceleration is the Iowa Acceleration Scale. The scale's questionnaires bring in everyone involved in the process, Davidson says, and offer insight into the child.

The screening could suggest, for example, that a child's immaturity stems from boredom and frustration, and that accelerating him to a curriculum that matches his ability may solve his behavior problems.

"I want to encourage parents, teachers and students to be more open-minded about grade-skipping," says Davidson.

When you're thinking about the education of an exceptional child, the question has to be: What's in his best interest?

Every child has his own needs, and there is no one-time fix, she says. Expect your child to have different needs 6 to 12 months from your first decision, Davidson says.

"Forcing a highly gifted child to stay in a regular classroom, with no acceleration, is not a way to give the child social skills," says Shulamit Widowsky, an educational therapist who works with gifted children. She skipped one grade, and she said her parents spent years arguing about whether it was the right thing to do since it didn't seem to help.

"But as a freshman in high school, I took philosophy and sociology as electives with classrooms full of seniors. I did well and made friends with the smart seniors, and enjoyed my year."

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